

Message from the Chief

Chief's Memo – September 11, 2007

September 11th – Firefighters Remembered

Governor Schwarzenegger asked me to recognize California firefighters on the anniversary of September 11th. The following radio address can be heard on the Governor's website: <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/radio-address/7358/>



Hi, this is CAL FIRE Director Ruben Grijalva filling in for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with another California Report.

Tuesday is the sixth anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks. As we remember that tragic day in American history we should also recognize the heroic work of our firefighters.

343 firefighters were among the more than 3,000 innocent people who were killed in the attacks. They bravely sacrificed their own lives to save countless others.

And as director of the state firefighting department, I can assure you that California's firefighters bring that same dedication to duty each and every day, as they stand on the front lines of public safety.

Last week our firefighters helped to put out the Zaca fire, which was the second-largest fire in the history of California. More than 3,000 firefighters responded to the blaze near Santa Barbara and only one building was lost.

That battle is over but we are still experiencing very dry conditions throughout California and CAL FIRE is responding.

CAL FIRE added 700 more seasonal firefighters this year under the Governor's Executive Order. They have been deployed to thousands of fires in the state while also stepping up prevention and inspection efforts.

This has been very effective despite the extreme conditions statewide. The acreage burned this year in areas under CAL FIRE jurisdiction is just one-sixth of last year's total. And the number of wildfires declined from 6,500 last year to 5,800 this year.

Public safety has always been the Governor's number one priority and we will do everything possible to make sure that our firefighters have the equipment and staffing they need to protect our people and property. They risk their lives to keep us safe and I join the Governor and all Californians in expressing my deepest gratitude for their service.

On behalf of Governor Schwarzenegger, I'm Ruben Grijalva.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Grijalva", written in a cursive style.

Ruben Grijalva, Chief
Director